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INDIAN HEAD DIVISION 4CAD/PAD TEAM WINS HIGHEST HONORS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ? DAVID PACKARD EXCELLENCE IN ACQUISITION AWARD

Members of the Cartridge Actuated Devices/ Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD) Team from the Indian Head Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center (Indian Head, Maryland) recently won the Department of Defense David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award. The Indian Head CAD/PAD Team provides technical and logistical support for the CAD/PAD explosive items used in aircraft escape systems.

There are hundreds of devices in the category of Cartridge Actuated Devices (CADs) and Propellant Actuated Devices (PADs). These devices include but are not limited to: man-rated percussion primers, impulse and delay cartridges, rocket catapults, under seat rocket motors, and gas generators. They perform vital functions such as: launching weapons from aircraft, aircraft countermeasures deployment, pyrotechnic sequencing, propulsion, and air bag inflation. A majority of these devices are used in military aircraft (jets and helicopters) to provide aircrew escape/survival in case of an accident or loss of control, and for weapon systems operation.

Approximately 50,000 CADs/PADs must be changed-out annually. The original re-supply system required a 120-day lead-time and a labor intensive, paper-laden process for requisition processing. The CAD/PAD Reengineering Team developed a supply support process that reduces the re-supply lead-time from 120 to 7 days, and minimizes the burden on the fleet by 46 work-years annually. The team created a customer-friendly re-supply process for explosive items, one of the most challenging types of commodities in the Navy. The process is paperless and nearly effortless for the customer and will save the U.S. Navy approximately \$3.2 million each year.

“This is an incredibly prestigious recognition granted to teams that have demonstrated great innovation and results in acquisition,” Mary Lacey, Technical Director of the Indian Head Division said as she passed on congratulatory words to the team. “To have your vision, determination, and achievements recognized at the highest level in the Department of Defense is truly an honor. The NAVSEA/NAVAIR/NALC/contractor team has done all the right things for the Fleet - our customers. This recognition is well deserved, and reflects positively on the professionalism and dedication of each of you,” she said.

Indian Head holds the tri-service (US Navy, Air Force, and Army) charter for support of CADs/PADs. This includes RDT&E, engineering, acquisition, manufacturing, and fleet support.

Indian Head provides CAD/PAD support in partnership with other US Government Activities, Industry, and Academia.

When asked about this accomplishment, Dennis P. Chappell, Director, CAD/PAD Joint Program Office said, “this initiative came about because our employees had a clear understanding of our program goal for continuous improvement and they felt empowered to do something about it. It was destined for success from the start because the first thing the team did was define who the customer was and what the customers requirements were.”

The team was selected for the award by Mr. Dave Oliver, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense. The award will be presented during the DOD Acquisition and Logistics Reform Week 2001 Kick-Off Ceremony on September 10, 2001.

For more information about this program, log on to the IHDIV website at <http://www.ih.navy.mil>.

NAVSEA Indian Head, Surface Warfare Center Division, is recognized as the National Center for Energetics. Over 2000 scientists and engineers specialize in the research, development, manufacturing and test of explosives and propellants for the Department of Defense. The IHDIV is one of the largest employers in Charles County.

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